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God forbid

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God forbid

A phrase invoking God's protection to keep something from happening. Sometimes used sarcastically or hyperbolically.

God forbid I get another ticket on my parents' car. I'll be grounded for a month! God forbid that an R-rated film should have anything offensive in it!

See also: [forbid](#), [god](#)

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God forbid! and Heaven forbid!

a phrase expressing the desire that God would forbid the situation that the speaker has just mentioned from ever happening. *Tom: It looks like taxes are going up again. Bob: God forbid! Bob: Bill was in a car wreck. I hope he wasn't hurt! Sue: God forbid!*

See also: [god](#)

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God forbid

Also, **heaven forbid**. May God prevent something from happening or being the case. For example, *God forbid that they actually encounter a bear, or Heaven forbid that the tornado pulls off the roof*. This term, in which *heaven* also stands for "God," does not necessarily imply a belief in God's direct intervention but merely expresses a strong wish. [c. 1225] For a synonym, see [perish the thought](#).

See also: [forbid](#), [god](#)

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God/Heaven for'bid (that...) (also humorous or old use, less frequent Heaven for'fend (that...)) (spoken)

used to say that you hope that something will not happen: *'Maybe you'll end up as a lawyer, like me.' 'Heaven forbid!'* (Some people find this use offensive.)

See also: [forbid](#), [god](#), [heaven](#)

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